

Application No. 10/758,255
Amendment dated October 10, 2007
After Final Office Action of July 12, 2007

Docket No.: 21029-00270-US

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed July 12, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-9, 11 and 12 were last presented in the application. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-7 were rejected and claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 were allowed. By the foregoing Amendments, claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 2-7 have been amended. No claims have been added. No new matter has been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 2-9, 11 and 12 will be pending in this application. Of these ten (10) claims, three (3) claims (claims 8, 9 and 12) are independent.

Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

Applicants acknowledge receipt of Form PTO-892 listing additional references considered by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants note that none of the claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, in the outstanding Office Action. Claim 1 and claims 2-7 which depended from claim 1 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 has been cancelled and claim 2 has been amended to remove the objectionable language noted in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections

Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Additionally, independent claim 1 and

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dependent claims 2-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,012,356 to Ueda (hereinafter, "Ueda") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,417,128 to Beyl (hereinafter, "Beyl"). Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Independent claim 1 has been cancelled, making the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) moot. Dependent claims 2-7 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 8.

The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter, which makes them *a fortiori* and independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to his effect is respectfully requested.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims or other subject matter disclosed in this application in a continuation or divisional application, cancellations and amendments of above claims, therefore, are not to be construed as an admission regarding the patentability of any claims and Applicants reserve the right to pursue such claims in a continuation or divisional application.

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Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21029-00270-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 10, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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